

HOUSE RESOLUTION 24

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the caregivers, families, and advocates for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a fatal, degenerative disease of the brain that impairs cognitive function, memory, and behavior; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, comprising seventy percent of all cases; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in Tennessee of persons aged sixty-five and older; and

WHEREAS, every sixty-eight seconds, a new case of Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 148-percent increase in Alzheimer's deaths since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with Alzheimer's disease is expected to soar from \$214 billion in 2014 to \$1.2 trillion in 2050; and

WHEREAS, nationally, average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias is nineteen times higher than average per-person Medicaid spending for all other seniors; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has the fifth-highest Alzheimer's death rate in America; from 2000 to 2010, the Alzheimer's death rate in Tennessee increased by 138 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, some 418,000 family caregivers in Tennessee provided 476 million hours of unpaid Alzheimer's care, valued at \$5.9 billion; and

WHEREAS, nearly seventy percent of Tennessee seniors who reported experiencing confusion or memory loss that is occurring more frequently or increasing in intensity have not talked with a healthcare professional about it; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven percent of Tennessee seniors with memory problems report that those problems create difficulty and burden in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes a tremendous emotional toll on all whose lives it touches, including family members, friends, and especially the caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, fifty-nine percent of family caregivers who attend to loved ones with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the efforts and results of all of the citizens of this state affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the caregivers, families, and advocates for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Tennessee and applaud their efforts to promote open discussion about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, including those brain health initiatives, research, and medical communities that, through new studies and clinical research, are working to treat, prevent, and ultimately cure Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared with this final clause omitted from such copy.